

Marlborough and Ramsbury Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1944

Mr. Chairman Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 25th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 49/45 dated March 19th, 1945.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931 : 10,721.

Population—Estimated Mid. 1944—9,844

Area, 94,511 Acres

Rateable Value : £46,141

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £215 10 0

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1944 :
3,120

Births, 1944.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Live	120	91	211	(24 Illegitimate)
Still	3	1	4	(0 Illegitimate)

Birth Rate, 1944. England and Wales

Live 21.4 Live 17.6

Still 0.4 Still 0.5

Birth Rate Average last 10 years 15.0

England and Wales „ „ 10 „ 15.6

Deaths : Males, 64. Females 51. Total, 115.

Death Rate 11.6 Average last 10 years 11.4

England and Wales „ 11.6 „ „ 10 „ 12.2

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 8
Females 8. Total, 16.

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) 75.8

England and Wales 46.

Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years 50.8

England and Wales „ „ 10 „ 53.5

STAFF. At the end of September, Mr. W. Strickland, who had already gone on superannuation retired from the service of the Council after about 40 years' service.

From September 30th, 1944 to March 1st, 1945, there was no Sanitary Inspector, the work being carried on most efficiently by Mr. Killick, the acting surveyor. On March 1st (1945) Mr. Kenneth Hudson, who had previously been assistant in the Borough assumed the duties of Sanitary Inspector.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total death
Scarlet Fever	16	11	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	17	0	1
Erysipelas	3	0	0
Measles	347	0	0
Whooping Cough	43	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0	0

Scarlet Fever. Of the 16 cases notified eleven were treated in the Hospital, were uncomplicated cases, sporadic and were fairly evenly distributed throughout the year with the exception of five cases in one village in the autumn.

Diphtheria. The one case notified was in a wartime institution. The child had been immunised in the area it came from in 1942, was a mild case and recovered without ill effect.

Pneumonia. Seventeen cases were notified in the district and only one of these died. Of the other deaths given by the Registrar two were in children in an Institution in the Borough who were notified to me in that area and the others were kinds which are notifiable.

Erysipelas. The three cases notified call for no comment.

Measles. There was an extensive epidemic of this disease which lasted from the early part of the year to the end of July, it was practically over the whole of the district and was in the Borough as well. It was not necessary to admit any of the cases to hospital and no death was recorded.

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WASLINGTON AND RAINIER RURAL DISTRICT

In. D. H. APRIL 1941 1941.

Please note that the Dateable Value should read 249141 and not 46141.

(signed) A.E. Wilson

Medical Officer of Health



Whooping-Cough. Of the 43 cases notified to me none were admitted to hospital and none died. The one death recorded by the Registrar General was in a child age one month, which was in an institution and was a premature child.

Except for the extensive epidemic of Measles which was common to most of the county at the time, the district may be considered to have been fairly free from infectious disease.

Tuberculosis. Fifteen cases of all sorts were notified to me during the year; of these two died and one left the district. before the end of the year.

The notifications were—

Male Pulm.	1 between 20—25.	1 between 25—35.
	2 „ 55—65.	
Female Pulm.	2 „ 15—20.	3 „ 20—25.
	1 „ 25—35.	1 over 65.
Female non-Pulm.	1 between 5—10.	1 between 15—20.
	2 „ 20—25.	

The deaths were—

Female Pulm.	1 between 35—45.	1 over 65.
Female non-Pulm.	1 between 5—10.	

Immunisation. During the year 97 children under 5 and eight between 5 and 15 were immunised against diphtheria. This brings the total done since the commencement of the campaign to 576 under 5 and 1,580 between 5 and 15 to the end of 1944, and the estimated percentage of the children in the district to 63.9% under 5 and 94.5% between 5 and 15.

Water Supply.

There has been little change in the Water Supply of the district. Two small extensions of Public Mains have been carried out to supply water to outlying farms and cottages, one from Whitton-ditch to Eastridge and the other from Chisbury along Chisbury Lane. A further 73 domestic properties have been connected to the mains during the year.

The Council have adopted a public water scheme for the area lying west of Marlborough, to be carried out as soon as practicable. Frequent analyses of the public supplies show consistently good results.

Drainage and Sewage.

There are no public sewerage schemes in the district.

The Council have adopted a public sewerage scheme prepared by their Engineers for the villages of Aldbourne and Ramsbury, to be carried out as soon as practicable (July, 1945).

Closet Accommodation.

There continues to be a gradual conversion of Privies to Earth Closets and Water Closets. During the year five privies have been converted into earth closets, and thirteen earth closets into water closets.

Public Cleansing.

The house to house collections of dry refuse in the village areas by contract, has continued to be carried out. In a number of cases, some difficulty has been experienced in the disposal of the refuse in a satisfactory manner, because the dumps had become full and were causing a nuisance.

Approval was given during the year to the proposal to carry out a comprehensive Scavenging Scheme for the whole district by direct labour, and it is hoped that this scheme will be in operation during 1945.

Milk Supplies.

Routine inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies were made from time to time and the general standard of cleanliness was maintained. There is a gradual tendency for Milk Producers to turn from the production of Ordinary Milk to one of the designated grades under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders. Three Producers have started producing Accredited Milk, and eleven Producers have started T.T. Production.

Legal Action.

No legal action was taken during the year.

Housing.

No Statutory Notices were served during the year.

Out of 76 houses inspected during the year, 37 were found not to be fit for habitation in all respects, and 32 of these have been made fit as a result of informal action.

During 1945 a start is being made on the Housing Survey as required by the Ministry. For that purpose, the necessary forms have been drafted and printed. Up to the present, 19 houses have been inspected. (July, 1945).

Overcrowding.

Some overcrowding exists and no action can be taken because of the shortage of housing accommodation.

New Housing Programme.

The Council's new Housing Programme for the next two years, provides for the erection of 56 houses in the following villages, Lockeridge 4 houses, West Overton 6 houses, Great Bedwyn 4 houses, Grafton 10 houses, Shalbourne 6 houses, Ramsbury 14 houses, Ogbourne St. George 12 houses. The drainage of these houses will be disposed of by small self contained sewerage works with the exception of Ramsbury and Shalbourne. At Ramsbury, it is proposed to put in an instalment of the main sewerage scheme, while at Shalbourne, the disposal will be by septic tanks and land treatment of the effluent.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied by 3.	Remedied by 4.	Remedied after verbal instructions only.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances ...	152	76	40	—	32	—	25
Slaughter Houses	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Butcher's Shops	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knackers' Yards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is pre- pared ...	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds ...	150	31	13	—	12	—	4
Dairies and Milkstores							19
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	17	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	240	107	53	—	44	—	44

Mlik and Dairies.

Number of wholesale producers registered	..	..	139
Number of retail purveyors registered	..	..	43
Approximate number of cows	..	..	7,000

Meat and Other Foods.

All the slaughtering for the district is done in the Borough.			
Number of licensed Slaughterhouses	..	..	Nil
Notices received of regular slaughter	..	..	Nil
Notices received of casual slaughter	..	..	12
Number of condemnations, Meat	..	..	Nil
do.		Other food in shops, etc.	5

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.	Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes	64	51	Appendicitis	..	..
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			Other digest. diseases	2	1
Cerebrospinal Fever	..		Nephritis	4	3
Scarlet Fever	..		Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		
Whooping Cough	1		Other maternal causes	..	
Diphtheria	..		Premature birth	2	1
Tuberc. of Respir. syst.	2		Cong. malf. birth inj. Inf. dis.	3	4
Other form of Tuberc.	1		Suicide	..	1
Syphilitic Diseases	..		Road Traffic Act	2	
Influenza	..		Other violent causes	1	1
Measles	..		All other causes	2	3
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.			Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Ac. Inf. Enceph.	..		Total	8	8
Cancer of b. cav; and			Legitimate	5	7
oesoph (M.)	1		Illegitimate	3	1
uterus (F)			Live Births		
Cancer of stomach and			Total	120	91
duodenum	3	1	Legitimate	108	79
Cancer of breast	..	1	Illegitimate	12	12
Cancer of all other sites	4	3	Stillbirths		
Diabetes	2		Total	3	1
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	4	5	Legitimate	3	1
Heart disease	15	16	Illegitimate	..	..
Other dis. of circ. syst.	4	2	Population	9,844	
Bronchitis	5	3			
Pneumonia	7				
Other Resp. diseases	..				
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	2				
Diarrhoea under two years	1	1			

